

# A contributes \$2.55M to end absestos cleanup

NASHUA (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency has come up with an additional \$2.55 million to complete the cleanup of asbestos at the former Johns-Manville plant.

When the EPA released \$650,000 in July for a partial cleanup, agency officials said chances for more money were slim because of federal budget cuts a year ago. But EPA headquarters provided \$1.75 million and the New England Region I office provided \$800,000.

The city is donating the landfill space.

Costs to dump asbestos debris in landfills are high, but the city is keeping the cost down by not charging the EPA a per ton fee at the landfill.

The cleanup is expected to be completed next summer.

City officials became concerned about the abandoned plant in 1994 when they realized the sprinkler system did not work. The building attracted vandals, scavengers and was the source of several small fires, leading the city to spend \$10,000 for a fence around the larger building to keep people out.

Last winter, part of the roof collapsed, raising the threat of further damage and exposing pipes filled with asbestos dust.

Once the site is cleaned up, Mayor Donald Davidson said he would like the city to take ownership, then sell it to a commercial developer.

Discussion began approximately a year ago about the cleanup, which involves two warehouses covering four acres at a facility that began manufacturing asbestos insulation early this century. Production continued until the 1980s, when the company went bankrupt.

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SDMS DocID 469995

Superfund Records Center  
SITE: Johns-Manville  
BREAK: 13.3  
OTHER: 46 9995

Peter Bonnette, president of Riverside Properties of Nashua, Inc., said he would like to see the 3 1/2-acre site become a commercial and industrial park.

The EPA's announcement yesterday drew politicians, who had written letters and spoken with EPA officials and fellow lawmakers to request money for the cleanup.